

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02513 141745Z

71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 027693

R 140745Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 619

INFO CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 2513

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJ: SARASIN PRESS INTERVIEW

REF: FBIS BANGKOK D110500Z FEB 74

1. FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER POTE SARASIN, INTERVIEWED IN THE "BANGKOK POST" FEBRUARY 9 (THE FBIS REFERENCE CARRIES THE FULL TEXT), DISCUSSED SEVERAL DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THAILAND. HE DECLARED HIMSELF IN FAVOR OF THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM, MEANING THAT THE PARTY PROPOSES EACH CANDIDATE. IF THE CANDIDATE LEAVES THE PARTY, HE AUTOMATICALLY FORFELTS HIS SEAT IN THE ASSEMBLY. THIS SYSTEM WOULD ELIMINATE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES WHO IN THE PAST PROVED SO EASILY PURCHASABLE.

2. POTE SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF A STRONG EXECUTIVE IN ORDER TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY, BUT NOT SO STRONG THAT IT DOES WHAT IT LIKES. A GOOD, WELL-PAID CIVIL SERVICE IS IMPORTANT TO GOOD ADMINISTRATION.

ECONOMICALLY, HE BELIVED THE COUNTRY FACED MANY PROBLEMS IMPOSED FROM ABROAD, LIKE THE OIL CRISIS. THE BUDGET NEEDED TO BE BALIANCED, BUT INCREASED FEES, TAXES, AND PRICES ONLY BURDENED THE PEOPLE. THE ANSWER WAS TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES. HE REGRETTED THT IT HAD TAKENTHREE YEARS TO DRAW UP A PETROLEUM LAW. HAD SWIFTER ACTION BEEN TAKEN THE COUNTRY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 02513 141745Z

MIGHT NOW HAVE HAD VITAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF OIL

IN THAILAND.

3. POTE CONSIDERED THAI FOREIGN RELATIONS WERE IN GOOD HANDS SINCE THE THAI WERE CAUTIOUS, CONSERVATIVE, AND DID NOT TAKE DRASTIC ACTIONS. HE SAID SEATO WAS CONCERNING ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS AND IMPLIED THAT AMERICAN FORCES WERE NO LONGER NECESSARY SINCE THE U.S. CONGRESS FORBODE THEM FROM TAKING ACTION FROM FOREIGN BASES. IF THEY COULD ACT, HE WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF KEEPING THEM FOR PROTECTION. SINCE THEY CANNOT BE USED, THERE WAS LITTLE USE IN THEIR REMAINING. THAI SECURITY DEPENDED ON SETTING THE PROBLEMS IN VIETNAM, LAOS, AND CAMBODIA, IF PEACE WERE REACHED, THAILAND WOULD BE MORE SECURE.

4. POTE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THAT THE PRC HAD ITS OWN DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND WAS NOT A DIRECT THREAT TO THAILAND EVEN THOUGH IT SUPPORTED THAI INSURGENTS. HE SCOFFED AT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT SINCE, IN THAILAND, THERE WAS NO ONE TO LIBERATE.

5. ON SOCIALISM, POTE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS SUCH A THING AS A RIGHT OR A LEFT, SOCIALISM OR CAPITALISM. THERE WAS ONLY A SOCIAL SYSTEM TAILORED FOR EACH COUNTRY. THE STRUCTURE MUST BE DESIGNED FOR A FAIRER DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME AND WEALTH IN ORDER TO STABILIZE THE COUNTRY.

6. COMMENT: WHEN THE INTERVIEWER ASKED POTE WHETHER HE PLANNED TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS OR ACCEPT LEADERSHIP OF A PARTY, HE REPLIED, "PERSONALLY, I HAVE NEVER HAD POLITICAL AMBITIONS". MANY OF HIS REMARKS, HOWEVER, WOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL PLATFORM FOR A SERIOUS CAMPAIGNER.
KINTNER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, BUDGETS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO002513
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740234/aaaabffg.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: FBIS BANGKOK D110500Z FEB 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2002 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SARASIN PRESS INTERVIEW
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MARR, TH, (SARASIN, POTE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005